

a great amount of data regarding the avifauna of his native Aberdeenshire. He travelled through Asia Minor in the summer of 1907, and contributed an interesting paper on his observations there to the 'Ibis,' 1914, pp. 365-387. He also assisted Mr. Eagle Clarke in preparing an account of the ornithology of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition of 1902-4, himself contributing several sections.

In September of last year he joined the 4th Batt. Gordon Highlanders, becoming a sergeant. Later on he obtained a commission, and was sent with the 2nd Batt. of the same regiment to the front.

---

XL.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

*Blathwayt on the Birds of Lincolnshire.*

[The Birds of Lincolnshire. By the Rev. F. L. Blathwayt, M.A., M.B.O.U. Trans. Lincoln. Nat. Union, Louth, iii. 1915, pp. 178-211.]

It is a remarkable fact that, notwithstanding its size and its situation, which makes it the landing-place of many rare migrants, no complete list of the birds of Lincolnshire had yet been published until Mr. Blathwayt's, now noticed.

With the ornithology of Lincolnshire the names of John Cordeaux and Mr. G. H. Caton Haigh are always associated as well as that of the present author, but as compared, for instance, with Norfolk, there does not appear to be nearly so much activity among bird-lovers in Lincolnshire, although the opportunities for noticing and recording rare species, at migration time especially, in the narrow strip of country along the coast known as the "marsh" are very full of promise.

In the present list, which follows Howard Saunders's nomenclature and arrangement, 296 species are recorded, but of these at least 10 are doubtful.

Among the rarer species mentioned *Phylloscopus viridanus*, *Luscinola schwartzi*, and *Locustella lanceolata* were all obtained for the first time in the British Islands, at North Cotes, by Mr. Haigh, while the Bearded Tit, the Kite, the Bittern,

Black Grouse, and Bustard are all extinct as breeding-birds within the county.

We notice with pleasure that a more comprehensive work on the birds of this county is being prepared by Mr. Caton Haigh, and we hope before long to have the pleasure of seeing it published. In the meantime Mr. Blathwayt's list will doubtless be of much value to all interested in the avifauna of Lincolnshire.

*Burns on the Length of the Incubation-period in Birds.*

[Comparative Periods of Deposition and Incubation of some North American Birds. By Frank L. Burns. Wilson Bulletin, Chicago, Ill., 1915, pp. 275-286.]

The information contained in this paper has been collected from various sources, both published and unpublished. A list of the genera in which either the male only or the female only or both sexes perform the duties of incubation is first given. In the case of North American birds only the Phalaropes and the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*) appear to fall in the first category. The period of deposition does not seem to be governed by any very definite law, though the size of the egg in relation to that of the bird may have something to do with it, as in the case of a larger egg a bird may require some time to recuperate. The interval seems longest in the case of the Condor, which only lays two eggs, and in which the interval between the two layings amounts to a week or ten days. Finally, a systematic list of the period of incubation is given for all those birds on the North American list about which there is any direct evidence.

*Buturlin on Russian and Eastern Palæartic Birds.*

[*Hæmatopus ostralegus longipes*, subsp. nov. By S. A. Buturlin. Messenger Ornith., Moscow, i. 1910, pp. 36-37.

*Laiscopus collaris kwenlunensis*, subsp. nov. Id. *ibid.*, pp. 188-9.

*Coracias garrulus caucasicus*, nov. subsp. Id. *ibid.*, pp. 190-2.

*Parus cinereus ferghanensis* Buturlin. Id. *ibid.*, iii. 1912, pp. 163-4.

*Corvus macrorhynchus mandshuricus*, subsp. nov. Id. *ibid.*, iv. 1913, p. 40.

Names of the *Parus cinereus* group. Id. *ibid.*, p. 51.

Notes on Distribution of *Penthestes* (= *Pacile*). Id. *ibid.*, pp. 116-7.

*Cyanistes cyanus yenisseensis* But. et Tugar. in Kiev. Id. *ibid.*, pp. 118-9.

Birds of the Ussuri-land. Id. *ibid.*, vi. 1915, pp. 89-114.

*Erythropus vespertinus transriphæus*, nom. emend. Id. *ibid.*, vi. 1915, pp. 126-7.

*Uragus sibiricus ussuriensis*, subsp. nov. Id. *ibid.*, p. 128.

*Pinicola enucleator sakhalinensis*, subsp. nov. Id. *ibid.*, pp. 129-130.

*Nucifraga caryocatactes altaicus*, subsp. nov. Id. *ibid.*, pp. 131-2.

*Strix uralensis yenisseensis*, subsp. nov. Id. *ibid.*, pp. 133-4.

*Pinicola enucleator altaicus*, subsp. nov. By G. I. Poljakov and S. A. Buturlin. *Ibid.*, pp. 139-140.

The Name of the Siberian Herring-Gull. By S. A. Buturlin. *Ibid.*, pp. 148-9.]

Our Foreign Member, Mr. Buturlin, has recently sent us a number of short papers, all extracted from the Russian ornithological journal, *Messenger Ornithologique*, which shows that activity in creating new subspecies is not confined to English and American workers.

The papers, though written in Russian, are all provided with a summary in English, so that the contents can be easily made out without any knowledge of the Russian tongue. It is hardly necessary to comment on them, as the titles in nearly all the cases explain their contents.

The longest one, on the birds of Ussuri-land, contains an account of the collections made by Capt. V. C. Arseniev, who obtained examples of 64 species in 1906-1910, among them two unnamed races—*Corvus macrorhynchus mandshuricus* and *Perisoreus infaustus maritimus*.

The last paper suggests that Mr. Iredale's new name (*Larus fuscus antelius*) for the Siberian Lesser Black-backed Gull should be restricted to the western race—the eastern race being *Larus taimyrensis taimyrensis* Buturl., 1911, and the western *L. t. antelius* Iredale, 1913, according to our author.

#### *Chapman on new Colombian and Central American Birds.*

[Descriptions of proposed new birds from Central and South America. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. N. H. New York, xxxiv. 1915, pp. 363-388.]

This is a continuation of previous papers published in the same journal, and contains the descriptions of fifteen new

subspecies mostly obtained in Colombia, and many of them by Mr. Chapman himself.

In some cases a review of all the subspecific forms of a species are given, and this undoubtedly makes a paper of this sort of much greater value to those who have to consult it later. This is notably the case with the Sparrow-hawk, *Cerchneis sparverius*, of which seven forms are recognised from various parts of South America.

*Coale on the Trumpeter Swan.*

[The Present Status of the Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*). By Henry K. Coale. Auk, xxxii. 1915, pp. 82-92, pls. vii.-x.]

The Trumpeter Swan, first made known to ornithologists by Dr. John Richardson "from the interior of the fur countries" in 1831, seems to have become very rare of late years; in fact, in the opinion of many members of the A.O.U. who discussed the matter at a meeting held in New York City in the fall of 1913, this magnificent bird is rapidly nearing extinction.

Mr. Coale has in this paper reviewed the literature on the subject, and has instituted enquiries among the various museums and institutions in the United States and Canada, as to the numbers of examples there preserved. He finds that in the whole of North America there are preserved in museums only sixteen specimens which have authentic data. These were collected between the years 1856 and 1909.

It looks as if the Trumpeter would very shortly share the fate which has already overtaken the Passenger Pigeon, unless some efforts are made to preserve it.

*Cory on new South American Birds.*

[Descriptions of new birds from South America and adjacent islands. By Charles B. Cory. Publ. Field Mus. N. H., Chicago, Ornith. Ser. i. 1915, pp. 293-302.]

Eighteen new subspecies and three new species—*Nothoprocta ambigua* from Peru, *Odontophorus plumbeicollis* and *Threnetes longicauda* from Ceará, Brazil—are described from Peru, Brazil, Venezuela, and some of the West India Islands.

*Dabbene on new Argentine Birds.*

[Description d'un nouveau genre et d'une nouvelle espèce de Pic provenant du nord-ouest de la République Argentine. Par Roberto Dabbene. An. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. Buenos Aires, xxvii. 1915, pp. 75-81.

Una ave nueva para la Argentina. Par Roberto Dabbene. Bol. Soc. Physis, i. 1914, pp. 435-436.

Otres especies de aves nuevas para la Argentina. Bol. Soc. Physis, i. 1915, pp. 532-533.]

For a rare Woodpecker, described in 1888 by Cabanis from the province of Cordoba under the name of *Phlæotomus schulzi*, Señor Dabbene now proposes a new generic name, *Neophlæotomus*. He also describes and figures, apparently from the same province of the Argentine, a new species of *Neophlæotomus* (*N. shiptoni*), differing from the type merely in the presence of a white band along the shoulders.

It does not appear that Señor Dabbene has had an opportunity of examining the type or other examples of Cabanis's species, and we venture to suggest that it is unlikely that two distinct species of so large and well-characterised a form would inhabit the same locality.

In the two other short notes Señor Dabbene adds to the avifauna of the Argentine *Manacus manacus gutturosus*, *Harpiprion cayennensis*, *Dendrocygna discolor*, and *Sporophila pileata*, all Brazilian species.

*Mathews on Australian Birds.*

[The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. iv. pt. 3, pp. 193-334, pls. 224-233. London (Witherby), 1915.]

In this part the Pelecaniformes are continued with the Darters, the Gannets, the Frigate-birds, the Tropic-birds, and the Pelicans. The first and last of these give little trouble, but with regard to the other three Families the importance of the questions involved can hardly be over-estimated. So great is it, indeed, that we hope Mr. Mathews will at some future date reprint his monographical essays in a separate form, and include the Petrels and such widely ranging birds; for they might happen after a time to be overlooked, if only published in a work supposed to

be devoted to the Avifauna of Australia alone. Many points are brought out by the author, as he traces the history of the species from Linnæus downwards, checks or corrects their synonymy, and discusses their distribution in the world generally.

With regard to the Gannets Mr. Mathews adopts the generic title *Piscatrix* of Reichenbach for the Linnean *Pelecanus sula*; *Sula* of Brisson for Boddaert's *P. leucogaster*; his own two genera *Parasula* and *Sulita* for *S. dactylatra* of Lesson (= *cyanops* auct.) and *S. bassana* of Linnæus respectively. These genera differ in the number of rectrices, size, colour-changes, and adult plumage, while the curious difference in the scutellation of the feet is shown by woodcuts for *Piscatrix* and *Sula*. No new subspecies are proposed, but the author's *leucogaster rogersi* is dropped, and *piscator* of Linnæus is shown to be too doubtful for acceptance.

Under the Frigate-birds, which are given even fuller treatment than the Gannets, the first point is that *Fregata* is considered by Mr. Mathews a very doubtful member of the Pelecaniformes (= Steganopodes), and it may be as well to state here that he totally denies the claim of *Phaëthon* to be included in the order, for he looks upon it as an aberrant Lariform genus. The next point is that *Fregata aquila* L. is not the wide-spread species that has been supposed; this is *F. minor* (Gm.) of the tropical and subtropical seas, whereas *F. aquila* occurs only around Ascension Island in the Atlantic. Frigate-birds are now stated to be "no wanderers," but to inhabit very definite areas. Other species recognised are *F. ariel* and *F. andrewsi* Mathews. An article from the Austral Avian Record, vol. ii., is reprinted to show the subspecies proposed.

With regard to the Tropic-birds, *Phaëthon* is preserved with the type *P. æthereus* L.; *Scæophaëthon* Mathews is once more used for *P. rubricauda*; and *Leptophaëthon* Mathews for *P. lepturus*: the division of the original genus being warranted in the author's opinion by size and colour of plumage. The species and subspecies are noted on pp. 303,

310, and among the latter three are new, namely *S. rubricauda rothschildi* from the Sandwich Islands area, *S. r. brevirostris* from the Bonin Islands, and *Leptophætho lepturus ascensionis* from Ascension and Fernando Noronha Islands.

The generic term *Catoptropelicanus* (*sic!*) Rchb. is used for the Australian Pelican, on account of its feathered lores.

*Murphy on the Penguins of South Georgia.*

[The Penguins of South Georgia. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Science Bull. Mus. Brooklyn Inst. Arts and Sci. vol. 2, 1915, pp. 103-133, 25 plates.]

Mr. R. C. Murphy, of the Brooklyn Museum, recently made an expedition to the Antarctic in the sailing brig, 'Daisy,' and spent five months, November 1911 to March 1912, at South Georgia, where he had plenty of opportunities of watching and studying the Penguins and other birds and animals of that unhappy island, where of late years so much of the animal life has been ruthlessly destroyed. It is to be hoped that now that the island has been made a dependency of the Falkland Islands, and some sort of rule and order introduced, the animals and birds will be able to recover themselves, and to restock the island and adjacent seas.

There are only two species of Penguins at all common at South Georgia—The King (*Aptenodytes patachonica*), and the Johnny or Gentoo (*Pygoscelis papua*). Of these two Mr. Murphy gives a most fascinating account, illustrated by a very large number of photographs taken by himself.

As is well known, the King Penguin incubates its single egg between its thighs and insteps, so to speak, and is able to shift about slowly in spite of the egg in this position. Many of Mr. Murphy's photographs show the birds when thus holding their eggs.

The King Penguin has suffered very severely from sealers, and is now much less common than the Gentoo Penguin, which, however, does not seem to have the fearless and courageous disposition of its Antarctic congener the Adelie, nor is it able to jump and dive so freely.

Mr. Murphy is able to refute a few errors and settle a few uncertainties in his concluding paragraphs regarding these remarkable birds, about which so much has been written of late years.

*Robinson and Kloss on Collections of Malayan Birds.*

[On a Collection of Birds from the Siamese Province of Bandon, N.E. Malay Peninsula. By H. C. Robinson. J. Fed. Malay States Mus. Kuala Lumpur, v. 1915, pp. 83-110.

The Zoology of Koh Samui and Koh Pennan—Birds. *Ibid.* pp. 139-152.

List of a small Collection of Mammals and Birds from the Krau River, Western Pahang. By H. C. Robinson and C. Boden Kloss. *Ibid.* pp. 169-175.

On Two new Species of Birds from the Southern Portion of the Malay Peninsula. *Ibid.* vi. 1915, pp. 29-30.

On the Species of Minivets (*Pericrocotus*) occurring in the Malay Peninsula. By H. C. Robinson. *Ibid.* pp. 31-38.]

As our own pages and those of the 'Journal of the Federated Malay States Museum' show, the activity and industry of Mr. Robinson and his colleague Mr. Boden Kloss show no abatement, and the fauna of the Malay Peninsula must now be one of the best-known of all tropical regions. The first of these papers deals with the avifauna of an obscure district of the Malayan Peninsula, which politically forms part of Siam and through which the new Bangkok-Singapore Railway runs. The fauna of this area is intermediate between that of the southern parts of the Malay Peninsula and Tenasserim, and about eight species are added to the list of Malayan birds.

Koh Samui and Koh Pennan are two islands lying off the coast of Bandon, the province which was dealt with in the preceding paper. Here the main object of the visits of Messrs. Robinson and Kloss was the acquisition of a series of local mammals, but a number of birds were also obtained, though nothing of very great interest, except the little Swift (*Collocalia merguensis*), which was extraordinarily abundant, and whose nests are regularly collected by the Chinese for eating purposes. This species is new to the Malay Peninsula.



The collection from the Krau River in western Pahang contains nothing of very special interest, except a rare Trogon (*Pyrotrogon orrophæus*) not hitherto represented in any of the local Malayan collections. The object of the expedition was to search for the little-known Argus Pheasant (*Rheinardius ocellatus nigrescens*), but bad weather spoiled the chances of obtaining this rare bird.

The new birds described in the fourth paper are a Flower-pecker, *Piprisoma modestum remotum*, subsp. n., from Negri Sembilan, and *Rhinomyias tardus*, sp. n., also from the same state.

The last paper reviews the Malayan Minivets, among which there has been a good deal of confusion. Four species are recognised and described at length, and one of these is divided into two races. A clear key enables anyone to identify the various forms.

#### *Stevens on the Birds of Assam.*

[Notes on the Birds of Upper Assam. By H. Stevens, M.B.O.U. Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. xxiii. 1914-5, pp. 234-268, 547-570, 721-736, map and 4 plates.]

This paper contains the results of observations made by Mr. H. Stevens during the last thirteen years in the upper portion of Assam, chiefly in the district of Lakhimpur, where he has long been a resident.

This part of Assam consists chiefly of the alluvial flats on either side of the Brahmapootra and its main affluents, where the great tea-growing industry is carried on, while north and south of the valley there is a heavily forested hill-country, inhabited by wild tribes such as the Mishmis and Abors, very difficult of access, though Mr. Stevens managed during one "cold weather" to make an excursion into these hills along the valley of the Subansiri.

The number of species listed is 464, and each is accompanied by notes on the habits and distribution in Assam.

Mr. Stevens claims that the rules of strict priority have been followed, and trinomials used whenever available, perhaps a

rather dangerous proceeding for one who is working so far from the larger museums and libraries ; for it is certainly necessary to consult these if the claims of forms to be adjudicated as subspecies or species is to be satisfactorily determined. As, however, he gives references to Oates and Blanford's 'Fauna of British India,' it is easy to identify any species mentioned.

On four plates are reproduced photographs of the typical scenery of the districts treated of, and a good map is given drawn by Mr. Stevens himself, to whom we may well give our congratulations on having completed so useful a bit of work.

*Stuart Baker on the Silver Pheasant.*

[A Revision of the Genus *Gemneus*. By E. C. Stuart Baker, F.Z.S., F.L.S., M.B.O.U. Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. xxiii. 1915, pp. 658-689, 3 pls., 2 maps.]

One of the most difficult and confusing genera of birds at the present time is that containing the Kalij and Silver Pheasants, whose range extends from Kashmir to Formosa and Hainan. It is among the forms of Silver Pheasant found in Burma and the adjoining districts that the greatest amount of variation seems to occur, and it was here that the late Mr. E. W. Oates found material for the recognition of no less than 36 distinct species.

Mr. Stuart-Baker has now gone very carefully through the extensive collections in the British Museum, and in the present paper gives us a very thorough résumé of the results of this examination. He recognises eight species only and an additional eight subspecies, and in addition to keys, synonymy, and description, he relegates the very numerous forms described by Oates, the types of which are all in the British Museum, to their proper places.

The Pheasants of this genus naturally fall into three distinct groups: the true Kalij, in which the prevailing tint on the backs of the males is black ; the Burmese Silver Pheasant (*G. lineatus*), in which the back is grey formed by fine vermiculations of white and black ; and, finally, the Chinese

Silver Pheasant (*G. nycthemerus*), in which the white greatly preponderates over the black. The Kalij group inhabits areas of dense forest, low elevation and heavy rainfall; the grey birds higher but moderate elevations, mixed forest and grass-lands; the white birds the highest plateaus, chiefly grass-covered, where the rainfall is light or scanty.

It is the interaction of these factors — temperature, humidity, elevation, and vegetable growth—that has brought about the great differentiation of forms in the genus *Gennaüs* which we find in Burma; and in this paper, which is illustrated with two maps and three plates, the course of evolution is clearly traced in the introductory portion, which is followed by a thorough systematic revision.

*Taverner on the Canadian Cormorant and the Salmon.*

[The Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) and its relation to the Salmon Industries on the Gulf of St. Lawrence. By P. A. Taverner. Canada Dept. Mines, Geol. Surv. Mus. Bull. no. 13, 1915, pp. 1-24.]

Many complaints have recently reached the Geological Survey of Canada, which also concerns itself with questions and investigations of a biological nature, of the depredations of the Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) in the salmon-rivers running into the St. Lawrence, along the Gaspé Coast near its mouth. The Director of the Survey accordingly deputed Mr. Taverner, accompanied by Messrs. Young & Hennesey, to investigate this question.

As a result of their enquiries and of the examination of the stomachs of 32 Cormorants, they came to the conclusion that there was little or no foundation for the complaints in regard to the Salmon parr and smolts—the older Salmon would certainly be immune from the attacks of the birds.

The stomachs of the Cormorants examined contained sculpin, herring, and other fish, but in no cases smolt or parr, which are both quick and agile fish and would be unlikely to be caught by fishing birds.

Incidentally some account is given of the numbers and life-history of the Cormorants.

*The Austral Avian Record.*

[The Austral Avian Record. Vol. ii., Aug. 1913–Aug. 1915.]

The completion of the second volume of Mr. Mathews's journal demands a short notice from us, though, doubtless, it is in the hands of all who are interested in Australian ornithology. In addition to a large number of descriptions of new genera and species, and discussions of some of those already proposed, there are some useful bibliographical notes on Billberg's 'Synopsis Faunæ Scandinaviæ' and on the date of publication of the plates illustrating the ornithology of the voyage of the 'Coquille' between 1822–25, and of Vieillot's 'Galcrie des Oiseaux.'

We have already commented on Mr. Mathews's methods in the matter of describing new subspecies, and we fear the later numbers of this journal show very little change for the better. As a rule, no definite type is mentioned, and the descriptions are without measurements, and consist of one short comparative sentence, as, for instance (p. 126), *Mesophoyx intermedia territorii* is described as differing from *M. i. plumifera* in its shorter tarsus and bill—no further information is given. As regards genera much the same complaints are necessary. As we have before stated, there may be ample justification for many of these new genera and subspecies, but in very few cases is sufficient evidence given of the grounds on which they are created.

*British Birds.*

[British Birds: an Illustrated Magazine. Edited by H. F. Witherby, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Vol. viii., June 1914–May 1915.]

There are a number of interesting articles in the last volume of 'British Birds,' but the exigencies of space will only allow us to refer to the more important ones. The volume opens with an article on bird-song by Drs. Stadler and Schmidt, who have contributed much to our knowledge of this subject to various German ornithological journals, and who have invented a number of special methods of recording

in print "shake," timbre, and rhythm, which have so much importance in bird-music. 'British Birds' has always made a special feature of photographs of birds and their nests, and in the present volume will be found some beautiful reproductions of photographs of the Red-necked Phalarope in the Hebrides by the Misses Best and Haviland, the Avocet in Holland by the first-named, and of Cormorants in Norfolk by Miss Turner; while Miss Haviland, as a result of her travels to the Yenesei, describes and figures the breeding-habits of the Little Stint and Curlew-Sandpiper.

Last year an enquiry was set up in regard to the alleged disappearance of the Land-Rail. A report on this subject by Mr. H. G. Alexander confirms the increasing rarity of this bird, which has practically disappeared from all the southern and eastern counties of England as a breeder. It is difficult to give a satisfactory explanation of this, but Mr. Alexander seems to think that it may be due to the use of corn-cutting machines.

Other reports are offered on the increase or decrease of our "summer residents"—a bad term this latter, summer visitors, in our opinion, being much better. Mr. M. Vaughan is unable to come to any very decided opinions, owing to the scanty answers to the enquiries, but he does state that the Whinchat and Redstart undoubtedly are decreasing.

The bird-ringing report shows that there is no decrease in the enthusiasm with which this enquiry is conducted. Some 13,000 birds were ringed during 1914, and about 3·3 per cent. were recovered. Among the more interesting recoveries is that of a Sandwich Tern, ringed as a nestling on the Farne Islands, July 9, 1913, and recovered on the Ivory Coast of West Africa, Feb. 9, 1914.

Only one new British bird is recorded. Mr. Ford Lindsay writes that two examples of Rüppell's Warbler (*Sylvia rueppelli*) were taken near Hastings on May 6, 1914. This is an eastern palæarctic bird, occurring in Greece and western Asia, and has never before been obtained in the British Islands.

A review—on the whole, kindly—of the new B.O.U. List forms the chief article of the last number of the volume now noticed.

*The Emu.*

[The Emu. Official Organ of the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union. Vol. xiv. July 1914-April 1915.]

Our Australian contemporary continues to flourish, and the four numbers forming the last complete volume bear witness to the interest taken in ornithology in the Antipodes. The volume opens with a coloured plate of two new Parrots, recently discovered by the efforts of Dr. Macgillivray in northern Queensland—*Geoffroyus geoffroyi maclellmani* and *Eclectus pectoralis macgillivrayi*. No Parrots of either of these genera have previously been obtained on the Australian continent.

The January number contains an account of the Annual Meeting of the R.A.O.U., which took place at Melbourne in November. The retiring President, Mr. A. E. H. Mattingley, gave an address on the much-debated subject of the nomenclature of Australian birds, which between the views of the more conservative party of Australian ornithologists, as represented in the Official R.A.O.U. Check-list, and those of Mr. G. M. Mathews, as expounded in his 'List of the Birds of Australia,' 1913, have been in some considerable confusion of late. Mr Mattingley's conclusions are somewhat non-committal, but he apparently looks forward to the time when strict priority and trinomialism will be adopted by all Australian ornithologists. Mr. Mattingley is succeeded as President of the Union by Capt. S. A. White, and Mr. A. J. Campbell as co-editor of the 'Emu' by Dr. J. A. Leach. The five days' Meeting of the Union concluded with an excursion to Mallacoota Island, where several days were spent and a number of interesting birds were identified, a list of which is given by Capt. White.

An important paper on the myology and other points in the anatomy of *Strepera*, a peculiar Australian type of rather

uncertain affinities, occupies the great part of the July number. This investigation was undertaken by Dr. Leech. He comes to the conclusion that *Strepera*, together with *Gymnorhina* and *Cracticus*, should be grouped together in one family, and separated from the Corvidæ as well as the Laniidæ, with which these genera have been hitherto associated.

Of faunal papers with field-notes and photographs, Mr. H. G. Barnard sends a contribution on the birds of Northern Territory, Messrs. Howe and Tregellas on the birds of the Mallee district, on the borders of Victoria and South Australia, while Capt. S. A. White has continued his exploration of the barren regions of central Australia, and has rediscovered the long-lost *Aphelocephala pectoralis* during his exploration of the Musgrave and Everard Ranges. Other papers of a somewhat similar nature are on north Queensland birds by Mr. Le Souëf and by Miss Cheney on the Wangaratta district of Victoria.

Finally, we would like to draw special attention to a short note by Mr. A. J. Campbell, in which he points out the great danger of the total extinction of three species of Parrot—*Psephotus pulcherrimus*, *Euphema pulchella*, and *Geopsittacus occidentalis*, all of which, formerly fairly common, have of recent years become exceedingly rare, if they are not already extinct. Mr. Campbell believes that the disappearance of these birds is due primarily to "the existence of a fierce breed of wild domestic cats," and that steps should be taken to exterminate or reduce these. We hope our Australian brethren may be able to bring this about.

---

*List of other Ornithological Publications received.*

- BLAAUW, F. E. Ornithologische waarnemingen in het zuiden der Kaapkolonie. (Tijd. Ned. Orn. Vereen., 1915.)
- CORY, C. B. Notes on South American Birds, with Descriptions of new Subspecies. (Field Mus. N. H. Publ. 183. Chicago, 1915.)
- The Auk. (Vol. xxxii. No. 3. Cambridge, Mass., 1915.)
- Austral Avian Record. (Vol. iii. No. 1. London, 1915.)
- Avicultural Magazine. (Third Series, Vol. vi. Nos. 9-12. London, 1915.)

- Bird Notes. (New Series, Vol. vi. Nos. 7-9. Ashbourne, 1915.)  
 British Birds. (Vol. ix. Nos. 1-5. London, 1915.)  
 California Fish and Game. (Vol. i. No. 4. San Francisco, 1915.)  
 Canada, Geological Survey. Dept. of Mines. Summary Report for  
 1914. (Ottawa, 1915.)  
 The Condor. (Vol. xvii. No. 4. Hollywood, Cal., 1915.)  
 The Emu. (Vol. xv. pt. 1. Melbourne, 1915.)  
 Field Museum Nat. Hist. Ann. Report of the Director for 1914.  
 (Chicago, 1915.)  
 The Irish Naturalist. (Vol. xxiv. Nos. 7-9. Dublin, 1915.)  
 The Scottish Naturalist. (Nos. 43-45. Edinburgh, 1915.)  
 The South Australian Ornithologist. (Vol. ii. pt. 3. Adelaide, 1915.)  
 South Australia Dept. Agriculture. Parafield Egg-laying Competition.  
 Final Report. (Adelaide, 1915.)
- 

XLI.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

TO THE EDITOR OF 'THE IBIS.'

SIR,—In the last 'Ibis' (pp. 637-8) is a letter from Mr. R. Etheridge, Junr., in regard to Messrs. Cockerell and Thorpe; in this he suggests that my remarks regarding these collectors libelled Thorpe, who was personally known to Mr. Etheridge, though of Cockerell Mr. Etheridge does not offer any defence. I am quite willing, at Mr. Etheridge's wish, to absolve Mr. Thorpe from complication in the dishonest practices of which I accused Messrs. Cockerell and Thorpe, and it is then open for some friend of Mr. Cockerell to take up the cudgels on his behalf. The fact is, however, that the collection in question was purchased as made by "Messrs. Cockerell and Thorpe," and under these circumstances I can only allude to this collection under their joint names and am unable to fix the blame for the deception practised. It is quite pleasing to read Mr. Etheridge's defence, and personally I accept his vindication of Mr. Thorpe, but my remarks were only such as were demanded by the facts, which are not altered by Mr. Etheridge's protest. In the collection were many true Cape York